



SOCIOLOGY PACKET **2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Issued by the Department of Sociology
The George Washington University**

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AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ASA)

The **American Sociological Association (ASA)** is dedicated to encouraging sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good. The Department of Sociology at GWU encourages you to join the ASA as a **STUDENT MEMBER**. The ASA offers a variety of pamphlets and books on opportunities for Sociology majors, as well as information on grants and fellowships, conferences, publishing venues, and employment.

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WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?*

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Sociology is also a discipline of and for curious minds! Sociologists are deeply committed to answering the question, “why?” Why are some people desperately poor, while others are enormously rich? Why does racial segregation in housing and education exist and persist well over a half century after civil rights and fair housing protections were enacted in the U.S.? Why is the proportion of women entering and completing college on the rise, while men’s enrollment has fallen? Why, despite this, are men’s average incomes higher than women’s? Consider questions about which YOU are curious. A key goal of sociology is to give you the knowledge and skills to answer those questions.

Sociology is a social *science*. It draws on theoretical frameworks and scientific methods of research to study the social world and to develop and test hypotheses with empirical data. It is a field in which you have the opportunity to build strong core knowledge about the social world, and a broad spectrum of skills, ranging from gathering, evaluating, and analyzing information to presenting information effectively orally and in written form.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY?

As a Sociology student at GW, you’ll be immersed in a range of topics, including sex and gender, urban sociology, criminology, race and ethnic relations, income and wealth inequalities, and social change. By living in a city that offers a rich social laboratory, you’ll be provided with real-life experiences conducting quantitative and qualitative research and developing skills in sociological observation and analysis. Specific skills that our students learn include critical thinking, problem solving, information and data literacy, quantitative and qualitative research skills, an active understanding of diversity, and written and oral communication skills, among others. These are skills that our students take with them into the labor market and further education. Our graduates can be found studying in doctoral programs, law school, and health programs, as well as working in government agencies, political and advocacy organizations, community service organizations, marketing and public relations, schools, and start-ups.

*** This information is adapted from the American Sociological Association (ASA) publication, *21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology*, 2nd edition, and Chambliss & Eglitis’s *Discover Sociology*, 4th edition (SAGE).**

REQUIREMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY MAJORS

In addition to the **general curriculum requirements** of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Sociology majors must satisfy the following requirements (39 credits total):

Prerequisite Sociology Course:

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology
or SOC 1002* The Sociological Imagination

Note: Students may not earn credit for both courses.

Required Courses in Sociology:

SOC 2101 Social Research Methods *
SOC 2102 Techniques of Data Analysis *
SOC 2103 Classical Sociological Theory
SOC 2104 Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 4195 Senior Research Seminar

Seven additional 2100-level courses in Sociology, including two from the 2160s-2170s courses listed below:

SOC 2161 Sociology of Complex Organizations
SOC 2162 Sociology of the Family
SOC 2163 Sociology of Education
SOC 2165 Sociology of Religion
SOC 2167 Sociology of Law
SOC 2168 Economic Sociology
SOC 2169 Urban Sociology
SOC 2170 Class and Inequality
SOC 2173 Social Movements
SOC 2174 Sociology of Immigration
SOC 2175 Sociology of Sex and Gender
SOC 2178 Deviance and Control
SOC 2179 Race and Minority Relations

(*). These courses meet GPAC requirements.

Please see the GW Bulletin and on-line course schedule for other 2100-level options.

Note: A student majoring in sociology may not declare a second major or a minor in criminal justice, or vice versa.

A Note on Grades

Majors in all three degrees granted by the Department of Sociology (Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Human Services & Social Justice) are required to earn a grade of C- or better in any course in the major. If a student receives a grade of D+, D, or D- in a major course, the student may either option (1) repeat the course, in which case the grade in the repeated course must be no lower than a C- and grades for both the original and repeated courses would appear on the student's transcript; or option (2) take a 2100-level course in the same department, in addition to the minimum number of courses required for the major, and earn a grade no lower than C-. Option 1 must be approved by the department chair in writing before the student may register for a course a second time. Option 2 must be approved by Prof. Eglitis, Director of the Undergraduate Program for Sociology (dainas@gwu.edu).

SENIOR RESEARCH CAPSTONE (SOC 4195)

Sociology 4195: Senior Research Seminar

All Sociology majors are required to complete Sociology 4195.

Students may take Sociology 4195 in either the Fall or Spring semester of their senior year. The course is limited to seniors, though exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Please note, however, that students must have completed at least one research methods course (Sociology 2101 or 2102) and one theory course (Sociology 2103 or 2104) before registering for the senior research seminar. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Sociology 4195 is a senior capstone course in which students bring together their accrued knowledge of sociological research methods, theory, and specialized topics in sociology and apply them to a comprehensive and advanced level empirical research project. A key goal of Sociology 4195 is to offer every graduate in the major the opportunity to leave the university with a thoughtful, original, and well-prepared sample of research and writing that reflects the student's accrued knowledge and can serve as a high-quality writing sample for students seeking jobs or admission to a graduate program.

The senior research capstone course will focus on a selected sociological subject (for instance, race, immigration, gender, the sociology of food, among others) and will be taught by faculty with expertise in the given area. Please note that students who have taken a regular subject area course in a particular topic may take a senior research seminar on a similar topic. For example, students who have completed Sociology 2179 (Race and Minority Relations) may register for a Sociology 4195 section focused on race and ethnicity. Sociology 4195 will largely cover new materials, focusing on empirical research and methodological and theoretical approaches to the topic. As of Spring 2020, this course meets the GPAC requirement for Oral Communication.

REQUIREMENTS OF SOCIOLOGY MINORS

In addition to the **general curriculum requirements** stated under the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Sociology minors must satisfy the following requirements:

Eighteen hours of coursework, including:

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology
or SOC 1002 The Sociological Imagination
Note: Students may not earn credit for both courses.

One of the following Sociology courses:

SOC 2103 Classical Sociological Theory
SOC 2104 Contemporary Sociological Theory

Four additional courses (12 credits) in SOC at the 2100-level, excluding 4192, 4193, and 4195

Note: A student majoring in sociology may not declare a second major or a minor in criminal justice, or vice versa.

SPECIAL HONORS IN SOCIOLOGY

In addition to meeting the general requirements stated under University Regulations, a candidate for graduation with Special Honors in Sociology must meet the following conditions:

- A final overall GPA of 3.0 or higher (pending confirmation by the department).
- A final GPA in the major of 3.5 or higher (pending confirmation by the department).
- Complete SOC 4195: Senior Research Seminar.
- Earn a grade of “A” on the SOC 4195 thesis.
- Complete a Special Honors Application, which must be signed by the Research Director. The application form can be found on our website at <http://sociology.columbian.gwu.edu/undergraduate-programs-declarations>
- During your final semester, submit the signed application form to the Sociology Department office assistant in Phillips Hall 409. Questions should be directed to soc@gwu.edu.
- Once the semester is completed, the department will complete the GPA information and submit it to the Registrar’s Office. It will take a few weeks for your Special Honors designation to appear on your University transcript.

Department of Sociology Annual Student Recognition Awards 2021-2022

The Department of Sociology seeks to recognize our excellent students with departmental awards. In addition to Special Honors, graduating majors are eligible for the following awards.

1) Outstanding Senior Awards:

- a. Outstanding Senior in Sociology Award**
- b. William J. Chambliss Outstanding Senior in Criminal Justice Award**
- c. Honey W. Nashman Outstanding Senior in Human Services Award**

These three awards are conferred on the basis of faculty nominations, student achievement of a minimum GPA in the major of 3.7, and outstanding performance on an identified paper, project, assignment, or thesis or in a service or leadership activity. Student names are included in the CCAS Celebration program and students will be recognized at the Department of Sociology graduation reception.

2) Excellence in Research and Writing Awards:

- a. Sociology *or* Criminal Justice *or* Human Services major (undergraduate, one award)**
- b. Graduate student in Sociology *and/or* Criminology (graduate, one award)**
- c. Ruth A. Wallace Memorial Award for Excellence in Research and Writing (one undergraduate or graduate award for a paper focused on an issue related to gender)**

These two awards are conferred on the basis of faculty nominations, recognizing student achievement in research and writing in either a class research paper assignment or a senior or graduate thesis. The *undergraduate* award is given for a paper completed between Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. The *graduate* award is given for a paper completed between Spring 2021 and Spring 2022. Winners will be recognized at the Department of Sociology graduation reception.

LAW & SOCIETY MINOR

The interdisciplinary Law & Society minor is housed in the Department of Sociology and is open to all qualifying GWU undergraduates. The application form and instructions can be downloaded from the [Law & Society minor webpage](#). Admission to the minor requires a 3.3 min GPA, based on at least 30 credit hours at GW. (Exceptions can be made to these requirements on reasonable bases, e.g. transfer credits.)

The Law and Society minor requires 18 credit hours (excluding prerequisites) in total, structured as follows:

- Two (2) required foundation courses (6 credits):
- SOC 2167 Sociology of Law OR SOC 2167W Sociology of Law
- UW 2031W Equality and the Law: Introduction to Legal Research and Writing OR UW 2031 Equality and the Law

One (1) secondary foundation course selected from the following (3 credits):

- PHIL 3142 Philosophy of Law
- PSC 2214 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics I
- PSC 2215 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II

Three (3) additional courses, which may be any of the two remaining courses listed immediately above and/or the courses listed below.

- ACCY 3601 Business Law: Contracts, Torts, and Property
- ACCY 4601 Business Law: Enterprise Organization
- BADM 4101 Business Ethics and the Legal Environment
- ECON 3190 Law and Economics
- GEOG 3193 Environmental Law and Policy
- HIST 3370 U.S. Constitutional History
- IAFF 2444 International Law
- IAFF 3183 Human Trafficking
- IAFF 3190 Humanitarian and International Development Law
- MAE 3171 Patent Law for Engineers
- PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
- PSC 2230 Law and Justice: The View from Hollywood
- PSC 2367 or PSC 2367W Human Rights
- PSC 2444 Public International Law (or IAFF 2444 International Law)
- PUBH 3115 Global Health and Human Rights
- PUBH 3136 Health Law
- SMPA 2173 Media Law
- SOC 2143 Criminal Justice System Arrest through Appeal
- SOC 2145 Criminal Law
- SOC 2146 Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice
- SOC 2988 Internship in Law and Society
- WGSS 3470 Sexuality and Law
- Other relevant courses (e.g., new or special topics) are subject to the Director's approval

Note that:

- No more than two courses from any one department can be used to fulfill the requirements for the minor. The exception is when SOC 2988 is selected as an elective, a second SOC elective can be taken.
- No more than two courses may be counted for both the Law & Society minor and any other major or minor.
- We recommend that the two required foundation courses are taken before the other required and elective classes in the minor.

For further information on the minor, contact the co-directors (lawandsociety@gwu.edu).

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY (SOC 3195) **Information and Guidelines**

General Information about the Independent Study

The Independent Study in Sociology (SOC 3195) provides Sociology and Criminal Justice majors with an opportunity to (a) explore in fuller depth or detail an area that a student has encountered in a previous Sociology course or (b) explore an area which is not part of the department's curriculum in sociology. The first step in doing an independent study is to identify a faculty member or faculty members who may be a good fit with the student's area of interest. The student should plan to meet with the faculty member to discuss the possibility of conducting an independent study under his or her direction. Faculty members are not obligated to supervise independent studies, though many are willing to do so in areas where they have a special interest or expertise. The second step is to prepare an independent study proposal and to submit that to the faculty member with whom the student would like to work. Guidelines for the required proposal may be found at the bottom of this sheet.

Students may take the independent study course for between 1 and 3 credits. All students doing the independent study must prepare a final research paper. As a general rule,

- a one-credit paper must be between 2500-3000 words, which is about 10 to 12 pages (not including charts, tables, pictures, appendices, the bibliography, or any other back matter).
- a two-credit paper must be between 3800-5000 words, which is about 15 to 20 pages (not including the items noted above).
- a three-credit paper must be between 6000-7500 words, which is about 25 to 30 finished pages (not including the items noted above).

Eligibility for Sociology 3195: Independent Study in Sociology

The Independent Study in Sociology is available to junior and senior level Sociology and Criminal Justice students. It is strongly advised that students seeking to do the independent study have completed at least one semester of research methods (SOC 2101 or SOC 2102).

Independent Study Proposal Guidelines (continued on next page)

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY (SOC 3195)

Information and Guidelines

[cont'd]

Proposal Guidelines

In order to register for Sociology 3195, students must prepare an independent study proposal. Students are advised to submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the proposed independent study to the prospective project advisor at least 2 weeks before the student intends to register for SOC 3195. The independent study advisor's approval of the project proposal must be obtained before registration.

The independent study proposal should include the following:

1. A proposal cover sheet indicating your name, major, and year of graduation
2. Proposed title of thesis
3. Introduction
 - What is the key topic(s) of your thesis?
 - What brings you to this topic?
 - What are your research questions?
4. Preliminary literature review and theoretical underpinnings of your project
 - What sociological literature and/or other existing research is relevant to your project?
 - What have other researchers written about this area of inquiry before you?
5. Proposal Conclusion
 - What do you hope to achieve in this independent research project?
 - What is the proposed timeline for the preparation and completion of your thesis? How often will you meet with your faculty advisor? What do you see as his/her role in your project?
6. Initial bibliography of literature and/or other works to be used in the project
 - This should include 5 to 8 scholarly publications, including books and articles from academic journals. Please avoid overreliance on internet source materials. Your bibliography should be composed primarily of appropriate academic publications.
 - The bibliography should be prepared using the American Sociological Association (ASA) style.

Please begin your proposal well in advance of the time you plan to submit it for consideration to the faculty member with whom you would like to work. Badly organized, poorly written, unclear or incomplete proposals are unlikely to be accepted.

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM: BA/MA IN SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a Combined Degree Program for undergraduate majors who would like to continue their education in the field. The program enables students to earn both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in the major area within five to five and a half years by counting some coursework toward both degrees.

Students who are admitted to the program are able to take graduate courses during their senior year, with 9 credits able count toward both the BA and MA degrees. This allows for a considerable cost and time savings, and also helps our department retain and further our engagement with our best students.

Students interested in matriculating into the Combined Degree Program:

- must have an overall GPA of 3.40 or better at the time of application;
- must have a GPA of 3.50 or better in the major at the time of application;
- must apply to the graduate portion of the program no later than the spring term of the junior year and after completing 75 undergraduate credits;
- must complete an application form for the Combined Degree Program;
 - The application includes the applicant's statement-of-interest in the program, a writing sample, three letters of recommendation*, and full transcripts of all undergraduate coursework.
 - *Three letters of recommendation from faculty members are required. At least two of these letters must come from faculty in the Sociology Department at GW. Letters from Teaching Assistants are not acceptable.
 - Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores.
 - Students need not pay the application fee for the MA.
 - Students should submit all application materials to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology, not to CCAS.
- must earn a "B" or better in all graduate courses;
- must complete a thesis as required of all MA students in Sociology;
- will be informed of acceptance into the program in late spring of their junior year.

Students interested in applying for the Combined Degree Program in Sociology should see Prof. Fran Buntman, Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology, for more details (gradsoc@gwu.edu, Phillips Hall 409 C).

REQUIREMENTS OF COMBINED BA/MA IN SOCIOLOGY

In addition to the **general curriculum requirements** of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Sociology majors must satisfy the following requirements (39 credits total):

- Prerequisite Sociology Course either SOC 1001 or SOC 1002
- Required Courses in Sociology
 - SOC 2101 Social Research Methods
 - SOC 2102 Techniques of Data Analysis
 - SOC 2103 Classical Sociological Theory
 - SOC 2104 Contemporary Sociological Theory
 - SOC 4195 Senior Research Seminar
- Seven additional 2100-level courses in Sociology, including two from the 2160s-2170s courses.

The MA Degree requires each Graduate Student to choose one Major and one Minor in either, Social Inequality, Urban Sociology, or Criminology.

- Three Methods courses: SOC 6230, SOC 6231 and either SOC 6232
- Two Theory courses: SOC 6238 and SOC 6239.
- Two Thesis courses: SOC 6998 and SOC 6999.
- Two Major Field courses, one Minor Field course, and two other graduate courses:
 - Social Inequality
 - SOC 6245: Race Relations
 - SOC 6246: Comparative Race and Ethnicity
 - SOC 6248: Race and Urban Redevelopment
 - SOC 6252: Selected Topics
 - SOC 6263: Race and Crime
 - SOC 6265: Women, Welfare, and Poverty
 - SOC 6268: Race, Gender, and Class
 - SOC 6271: Gender and Society
 - SOC 6273: The Sex Industry
 - SOC 6286: The Law of Race and Slavery
 - Urban Sociology
 - SOC 6248: Race and Urban Development
 - SOC 6250: Urban Sociology
 - SOC 6252: Selected Topics
 - PSCI 6211: Urban Politics
 - PSCI 6212: Urban Policy Problems
 - GEOG 6243: Urban Geography
 - Criminology
 - SOC 6258: Deviance and Control
 - SOC 6259: Criminology
 - SOC 6260: Special Topics in Criminology
 - SOC 6262: Corrections
 - SOC 6263: Race and Crime
 - SOC 6264: Organized Crime
 - SOC 6273: The Sex Industry